



# LEAF Marque Standard

Version 15.0

LEAF Marque is an environmental assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products.



Document: LEAF Marque Standard v15.0

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### Version History

Version Number	Date of Publication	Changes
V15.0	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2019	Control Points: 9 new, 14 deleted, 3 upgraded to Essential. Minor typographical changes and content development.

Approved by the LEAF Marque Board, on the recommendation of the LEAF Marque Technical Advisory Committee, prior to being issued.

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## Introduction

### LEAF Marque



LEAF Marque is an environmental assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is based on LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles.

The LEAF Marque Standard sets out the requirements for LEAF Marque certification. When you see produce and products with the LEAF Marque logo, you can be sure it comes from a farm practising sustainable agriculture and meeting our Standard.

BASiS points are available for undergoing a LEAF Marque audit. For more information, please see the [LEAF Marque website](#).

LEAF Marque certified businesses can use the guidance provided within the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review to support their implementation of IFM and their preparation for LEAF Marque certification.

LEAF Marque is a Full Member of the [ISEAL Alliance](#).

LEAF Marque's Intended Impacts are aligned with LEAF's beyond certification work which aims to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities. The Intended Impacts of LEAF Marque are to improve:

- Soil management to enhance soil quality and soil health
- The resilience of cropping systems
- Management of water use and water quality
- Energy efficiency and energy use
- Waste management
- Management of livestock to enhance the environment
- And enhance the management of native habitats and biodiversity



## Scope

LEAF Marque certification covers the whole farm business, including sites and fields managed centrally. LEAF Marque certification applies to products from the whole farm business and is NOT limited to defined crops or enterprises within the business.

The LEAF Marque certificate states the products certified in accordance with the LEAF Product List. All products listed on the certificate must also be part of the business' baseline system certification(s). The LEAF Marque Standard is applicable to the whole business regardless of the products listed on the LEAF Marque certificate.

This LEAF Marque Standard is applied to all LEAF Marque **audits** regardless of country and enterprise.

LEAF Marque certified businesses are expected to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements, existing national and/or international laws and regulations.

LEAF Marque certification is third party verified by LEAF Marque approved and accredited Certification Bodies (CBs). The current CBs and the countries where they operate can be found on the [LEAF Marque website](#).

All LEAF Marque **audits** are carried out independently, on-farm on an annual basis, either at the same time as the baseline **certification** system(s), or as a stand-alone **audit**.

LEAF Marque certification requires the business to fully comply with all the **Essential (E)** Control Points within the Standard. Compliance with the **Recommended (R)** Control Points is preferable, and they may become Essential Control Points in the future. Some Control Points may be **Not-Applicable (N/A)** as determined within the Standard.

The LEAF Marque Standard is available in several languages which can be found on the [LEAF website](#). The English version of the Standard is the definitive version and therefore any issues of interpretation from other translations need to be referred to the English version.

There is no binding additional guidance however significant further guidance and support for LEAF members can be found in the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review **and LEAF Information Centre**.

It should be noted that the LEAF Marque Standard is additional and complementary to approved baseline systems; the list of approved baseline systems is included within the LEAF Product List, which is available on the [LEAF website](#).



## Revising the Standard

Revising the LEAF Marque Standard provides the opportunity to continually improve the Standard based on experience gained, lessons learned, and input provided during the implementation of the previous Standards (v14.1 and earlier). In addition, as a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance, LEAF Marque is committed to revising the Standard taking into account feedback during stakeholder consultation.

The public consultation for the LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 Draft was held between the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 30th January 2019.

LEAF Marque is very grateful to all those involved in the continual development of the LEAF Marque Standard. In particular, we would like to thank the LEAF Marque Technical Advisory Committee.

If you would like to make a proposal for revisions of the LEAF Marque Standard, please contact [info@leafmarque.com](mailto:info@leafmarque.com). The next version (v16.0) of the LEAF Marque Standard will be published no later than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

## ISEAL Alliance

LEAF Marque is a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance, providing further rigour to the robustness and quality of the system. ISEAL<sup>1</sup> is a global membership association whose mission is to strengthen sustainability standards systems for the benefit of people and the environment. Members are multi-stakeholder sustainability standards and accreditation bodies that demonstrate their ability to meet the ISEAL Codes of Practice and accompanying requirements, and commit to learning and improving.

ISEAL membership involves progressive compliance with ISEAL's Standard Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes, verified through independent evaluation and peer review, as well as a commitment to continuous learning. ISEAL members form a network of standards organisations that collaborate, innovate and drive the sustainability standards movement forward.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance is a formal collaboration of leading international standard-setting and conformity assessment organizations focused on social and environmental issues. The ISEAL Alliance supports credible standards and conformity assessment by developing capacity building tools to strengthen members' activities and by promoting credible voluntary social and environmental certification as a legitimate policy instrument in global trade and development.



## LEAF



LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a leading global organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming.

We work with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming practices that are prosperous, enrich the environment and engage with local communities. We do this

through Integrated Farm Management, a whole farm business approach that delivers more sustainable farming.

### LEAF's Vision

A world that is farming, eating and living sustainably.

### LEAF's Mission

To inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.

LEAF's mission is realised through our three core pillars of work:

1. Facilitating knowledge generation and exchange;
2. Developing market opportunities through LEAF Marque;
3. Educating and engaging the public in sustainable food and farming.

LEAF has developed as a credible 'go-to' organisation in the delivery of more sustainable farming practices with a very well respected and regarded network of demonstration farms and innovation centres, building management tools and guidance, developing communication skills and channels between farmers and consumers, such as through our successful public outreach programme – LEAF Open Farm Sunday and in the market place with LEAF Marque.

LEAF has members across the world who produce a wide range of crops and livestock.

LEAF was established in 1991 and continues to work with the objectives of encouraging the uptake of more sustainable farming and to build public trust and understanding in food, farming and nature.

[www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

## LEAF's Integrated Farm Management

LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) is a whole farm business approach that delivers more sustainable food and farming.

It uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities.

A farm business managed to IFM principles will demonstrate site-specific and continuous improvement across the whole farm including:

- Organisation and Planning
- Soil Management and Fertility
- Crop Health and Protection
- Pollution Control and By-Product Management
- Animal Husbandry
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Management
- Landscape and Nature Conservation
- Community Engagement



## LEAF Sustainable Farming Review

The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is a self-assessment online management tool for LEAF members to support business implementation of IFM. It enables businesses to monitor their performance, identify strengths and weaknesses as well as set targets for improvement across the business.

## LEAF Resources

LEAF provides a range of technical tools and resources for LEAF members in addition to the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review. These include:

- [LEAF IFM Guide](#)
- [LEAF Information Centre](#)
- LEAF Energy Monitoring Spreadsheets: [Year on Year](#), [Compare Across Sites](#), and [Compare Across Sites and Combined Heat and Power \(CHP\)](#)
- [LEAF IFM Bulletin](#)
- Simply Sustainable Series: [Soils](#), [Water](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Biosecurity](#)





## LEAF Network

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. LEAF Demonstration Farmers communicate, discuss and demonstrate IFM best practice amongst other farmers and **are a crucial component in** promoting sustainable farming to wider groups such as politicians, industry and students. LEAF's network of Demonstration Farms includes a range of farm businesses across the UK. They work alongside LEAF Innovation Centres.

LEAF Innovation Centres are research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of IFM. They investigate and communicate practices which underpin the continual improvement of IFM to help deliver more sustainable food and farming. The network of LEAF Innovation Centres includes a range of organisations across the UK. They work alongside LEAF Demonstration Farms and are key to the development of LEAF. Through hosting visits, doing talks, writing articles and contributing to LEAF's technical resources, they play a critical role in one of LEAF's core activities: facilitating sustainable farming knowledge generation and exchange.

## LEAF Open Farm Sunday



LEAF manages Open Farm Sunday, the single, most effective and supported day in the UK farming calendar. It is a day for farmers to 'open their gates' and welcome people onto farms to discover the story behind their food and the vital role farmers have in caring for the countryside. LEAF also manages Open Farm School Days which encourages school children out onto farms to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

[www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)

## LEAF Education






LEAF Education was launched May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, following the merger of LEAF and FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) in July 2017. LEAF Education builds upon and strengthens FACE's work in the UK education, farming and food sectors to inspire future generations about farming, food and the countryside. LEAF Education manages a number of industry and educational initiatives, including Access to Farms, CEVAS (Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme), Countryside Classroom and Chef on the Farm. It provides teachers with curriculum focused training, tools and resources to help them deliver high-quality learning experiences about farming. It helps farmers navigate the world of education and supports them in delivering inspiring and engaging on-farm and in-classroom activities.

[www.leafuk.org/education](http://www.leafuk.org/education)

## Changes for v15.0

The style and layout of the LEAF Marque Standard is detailed below. Where there is a change for v15.0, this is indicated in **orange**.

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>5.1</b></p> <p><b>Measures are taken to avoid <b>damage to grassland by livestock and to optimise biodiversity</b></b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if no outdoor livestock production</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2) includes advice on livestock management and the environment</li> <li>• <b>Measures taken to optimise biodiversity and reduce soil erosion and run-off may include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>adjusting stocking rates</b></li> <li>○ <b>adjusting animal movements and/or using rotation</b></li> <li>○ <b>consideration of permanent tracks</b></li> <li>○ <b>positioning of gateways and fencing</b></li> <li>○ <b>positioning of supplementary feeders and drinkers</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>  </p> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.12</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a></p>

Edits to the LEAF Marque Standard v14.1 have been made to the Control Points listed in the table below.

Section	Control Points
<b>Organisation and Planning</b>	1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.15, 1.17, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21
<b>Soil Management and Fertility</b>	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10, 2.13, 2.14
<b>Crop Health and Protection</b>	3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 3.19, 3.20
<b>Pollution Control and By-Product Management</b>	4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9
<b>Animal Husbandry</b>	5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4
<b>Water Management</b>	7.1, 7.2
<b>Landscape and Nature Conservation</b>	8.2, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.11, 8.13, 8.14, 8.15, 8.18, 8.22, 8.23, 8.24, 8.25, 8.26, 8.27
<b>Community Engagement</b>	9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5



## Key

All Control Points are either Essential (E) or Recommended (R). Compliance can be recorded as Not-Applicable (N/A) where determined within the Standard if the business meets the situation(s) stated.

Verification icons are listed for each Control Point; these highlight the means of verification needed to evidence the Control Point and are described in the table below. Unless specified in the verification text, the verification icon(s) are optional and suggestions only.

Control Point Compliance		
		<b>Essential</b> Control Point All certified businesses must comply with these Control Points. Where the icon is <b>orange</b> , the Control Point was not Essential in the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Recommended</b> Control Point Compliance with these Control Points is preferable. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the Control Point was not Recommended in the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Not-Applicable</b> Control Point Applies to situations as determined within the Standard. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the situations for Not-Applicable have been changed from the previous version of the Standard
Control Point Information		
		<b>New</b> Control Point Control Points which are new to the Standard.
Verification Icon		
		<b>Verbal</b> e.g. interview with business staff and/or management and/or contractors. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Observe</b> e.g. observation of activities, practices and environment. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Record</b> e.g. a printed or electronic copy of a record or document. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard

A glossary of terms can be found on the [LEAF Marque Website](#). The glossary is additional guidance and non-binding.






## Organisation and Planning

**Effective organisation and planning are the foundations to a successful Integrated Farm Management (IFM) approach. Setting objectives and monitoring the results provide the means by which benefits of IFM can be quantified, demonstrated and continuously improved.**






Use of management plans and reviews play an important part in the finance and profitability on the farm. Your family and staff's motivation and involvement, crop performance, livestock performance and welfare, environmental commitment and engagement with local community are also important considerations.

Informed organisation and planning means that record-keeping, staff training and engagement, market development and communication are considered and implemented to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the farm business. In addition, good organisation and planning will reduce business risk, whilst making it more resilient to change. While many of these considerations are obvious, having clear and documented procedures helps avoid mistakes as well as develop contingency plans which are the building blocks of IFM.

- More information on the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or [myLEAF](#)
- More information on the **LEAF Charity** Membership Certificate can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or downloaded from [myLEAF](#)
- **More information on the LEAF Product List can be found on the [LEAF website](#). The list of LEAF Marque approved baseline certification systems is also included in the LEAF Product List.**
- **Previously called the Farm Environmental Policy**, LEAF's [Integrated Farm Management Policy](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Health and Safety Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Emergency Information sheet](#) can be used as a template for displaying emergency information
- LEAF's [IFM PowerPoint](#) can be used to inform staff about LEAF and IFM

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>1.1</b> <b>The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review has been completed.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Completion of the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review within the last 9 months</li> <li>LEAF Producer Groups need to complete the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review for the whole group</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">myLEAF</a>
<b>1.2</b> <b>The business is a certified full member of a LEAF Marque approved baseline certification system for each product.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independently verified baseline certification systems must be approved by LEAF Marque</li> <li>Certificate(s) from approved baseline certification system(s) include all products within the legal entity business, as defined in the LEAF Marque Certification System Rules (e.g. if there are cereals, vegetables and livestock products, the business demonstrates certification of the appropriate baseline system(s) for each)</li> <li>The LEAF Marque Standard applies to all products and land within the control of the farming business</li> <li>Minor products which do not contribute a significant commercial value to the business are exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole. These products should not take up a significant part of the business' time or land. Contact LEAF Marque if unsure</li> <li>Products for which there is not a baseline certification system are exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole. Contact LEAF Marque if unsure</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.03</a> <a href="#">LEAF Website</a>
<b>1.3</b> <b>The 'Farm Details' and 'Production Information' section of the 'My Profile' of 'myLEAF' has been completed and is accurate</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurate and up to date 'Farm Details' and 'Production Information' in the business' LEAF Charity Membership Certificate and/or LEAF Sustainable Farming Review report</li> <li>'Production Information' includes all the business' products</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LEAF Website</a> <a href="#">OP.BI.01</a> <a href="#">OP.BI.02</a>
<b>1.4</b>	[Deleted since v13.0]	
<b>1.5</b>	[Deleted since v13.0]	

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<b>1.6</b> There is an <b>Integrated Farm Management Policy</b> . <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Integrated Farm Management Policy states the business' commitments and aims relating to Integrated Farm Management (IFM)</li> <li>Policy references:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFM</li> <li>efficient and justified resource use and waste management</li> <li>eliminating or minimising all types of pollution</li> <li>optimising energy and water efficiency</li> <li>improving and enhancing the environment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Policy is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>Policy is communicated to all staff</li> <li>Policy sets out the business' short-term (present to five years) and long-term (more than five years) objectives</li> <li>Policy meets all regulatory and legislative requirements</li> <li>Policy shows commitment to continuous improvement</li> <li>Policy is relevant to the business' activities</li> <li>Policy is relevant to the business' activities, including non-food enterprises that impact on the business</li> </ul>
<b>1.7</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]
<b>1.8</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]
<b>1.9</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]
<b>1.10</b> The <b>Integrated Farm Management Policy</b> is signed and understood by permanent members of staff. <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show signatures from permanent staff (including departmental management staff where appropriate) to confirm that the Policy has been understood</li> <li>Policy is displayed for all staff</li> </ul>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>1.11</b> <b>Relevant elements of the Integrated Farm Management Policy have been communicated to suppliers and contractors.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that <b>relevant elements of the Policy have</b> been communicated to <b>relevant</b> suppliers and contractors (e.g. via copy letters, meeting minutes, or emails)</li> <li>This includes graziers or any other person(s) with a short-term rental licence who have access to land</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a>
<b>1.12</b> <b>Resource use and waste management are considered when purchasing or designing buildings and/or equipment.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Integrated Farm Management Policy</b> includes <b>a</b> commitment to improving <b>resource use efficiency (including energy, water and waste management)</b> through justified purchase and design decisions</li> <li>Consideration has been given to incorporation of renewable energy generation <b>during purchase or design of buildings(s) and/or equipment</b></li> <li>Consideration has been given to ways to recover or recycle water <b>during purchase or design of buildings(s) and/or equipment</b></li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a> <a href="#">EE.EQ.03</a> <a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a>
<b>1.13</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]	
<b>1.14</b> <b>There is a record of all received complaints and evidence of appropriate actions.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show complaints and actions taken</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Farm Practice Complaints (OP.OD.02) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.10</a> <a href="#">OP.OD.02</a>
<b>1.15</b> <b>Relevant staff attend regular training or awareness events on the principles and practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM).</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of staff training and attendance</li> <li>Record of discussion or improvements that have arisen from the training</li> <li>Training is <b>attended</b> regularly (at least annually)</li> <li>Staff have an appropriate awareness of IFM</li> <li>Contractors have an appropriate awareness of IFM</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Staff IFM Awareness (OP.OD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">OP.OD.01</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
1.16	[Deleted since v14.1]	
<b>1.17</b> <b>There is a Health and Safety Risk Assessment.</b> <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Safety Risk Assessment has been completed in the past 12 months</li> <li>Assessment identifies health and safety risks and indicates the probability and severity of each risk</li> <li>Assessment covers the whole business and includes all farm operations and interactions with the general public</li> <li>Risks are communicated to all staff and contractors</li> <li>Staff understand the importance of reducing risk in day to day operations</li> </ul>	  <u>OP.OQ.12</u>
1.18	[Deleted since v15.0]	
1.19	[Deleted since v15.0]	
1.20	[Deleted since v15.0]	
1.21	[Deleted since v15.0]	





## Soil Management and Fertility






**Soil is the basis of agricultural production. The conservation and improvement of this valuable resource must be a high priority in the adoption of Integrated Farm Management.**











The availability of land and fertile soil is essential for healthy productive crops and livestock. Good quality soil also supports water management, reduces risk of nutrient run-off, acts as a carbon sink and promotes biodiversity.






Good soil husbandry includes routine analysis and the maintenance and improvement of physical, chemical and biological soil properties. This helps ensure soils' long-term fertility and builds organic matter, while reducing the risk of erosion, structural degradation, compaction and associated environmental concerns such as flooding and drought. Good soil husbandry contributes to attaining healthy soils and can increase yields and profitability.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Soils](#) provides Six Simple Steps for your soil to help improve the performance, health and long-term sustainability of your land.
- There are also a number of [Simple Sustainable Soils Case Studies](#) available.
- LEAF's [Soil Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to consider in your soil management planning.
- LEAF's [Nutrient Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include and how to integrate it with your Manure Management Plan.

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<p><b>2.1</b> There is an implemented Soil Management Plan (including a descriptive map).</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Soil Management</b> Plan includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ map</li> <li>○ different soil types and their condition</li> <li>○ areas prone to compaction, slumping, erosion, runoff and leaching</li> <li>○ explanatory notes</li> <li>○ control strategies to reduce possible risks to soil health</li> <li>○ <b>targets to improve soil health</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Risks are communicated to staff and contractors</li> <li>• <b>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> <li>• <b>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</b></li> <li>• Appropriate <b>field</b> operations have been used</li> <li>• The requirements of Control Point 2.7 should be included in the Plan</li> <li>• A Soil Management Plan is still necessary when growing in substrate. Consider your utilisation, management and disposal of substrate and the area below the substrate</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.01</a></p>
<p><b>2.2</b> <b>Measures are taken to conserve and build up soil organic matter.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Management Plan (see 2.1) <b>states measures to conserve and build up soil organic matter</b></li> <li>• Measures include incorporation of crop residues and efficient use of other organic materials where available and appropriate</li> <li>• If soil organic matter is being measured, LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Soil Organic Matter % (SM.SD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.02</a> <a href="#">SM.SD.01</a></p>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<p><b>2.3</b> There is an implemented Nutrient Management Plan that is integrated with a Manure Management Plan (4.2).</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nutrient Management</b> Plan includes calculations of likely crop requirements and takes account of available nutrients in soil, manures, composts and crop residues</li> <li>• Plan includes <b>Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K)</b> applications as well as other nutrients</li> <li>• Plan shows an emphasis on efficiency (e.g. optimal use of inputs)</li> <li>• Plan shows emphasis on reducing use (i.e. inorganic inputs and using other substitutes)</li> <li>• <b>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> <li>• <b>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</b></li> <li>• The requirements of Control Point 4.2 can be included in the Plan</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.02</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.07</a></p>
<p><b>2.4</b> The business is aware of soils, livestock and crops that are prone to trace element deficiencies.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate leaf/soil/livestock analysis records</li> <li>• Written records of visible crop or livestock symptoms (e.g. in a diary)</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a></p>
<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v11.0]</p>
<p><b>2.6</b> There is a long-term cropping plan.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops such as orchard, long-term protected crops and permanent pasture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan identifies cropping cycles, <b>including</b> intentions for the future (over at least <b>three</b> years)</li> <li>• The rotation/cycle is sustainable and appropriate to the farm business, including the soil, <b>livestock (where applicable)</b> and climate</li> <li>• <b>Cropping plan is reviewed annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">CP.CQ.02</a></p>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>2.7</b> <b>The risk of soil degradation is assessed prior to operations being carried out to ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The business is able to explain how soil management operations are planned and carried out</li> <li>The producer is able to justify and demonstrate that <b>field operations and/or grazing</b> have minimum environmental impact</li> <li>The business has documented steps to reduce any adverse impacts in their Soil Management Plan (see 2.1)</li> <li>No significant visual evidence of soil damage such as compaction or soil erosion</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.01</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.04</a>
<b>2.8</b> <b>All cultivations and field operations are recorded.</b> <div>R</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where business does not carry out cultivations or field operations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field operation records by crop type or by field</li> <li>Checking field records can be very onerous on large farms with small fields so grouping may occur and is acceptable</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.04</a>
<b>2.9</b> <b>Recommendations for application of fertilisers (organic or inorganic) are given by competent, qualified persons.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e. training records of advisor or staff)</li> <li>The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is four hours per year</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a>
<b>2.10</b> <b>Organic and inorganic fertiliser applications are recorded.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field records and fertigation records that show evidence that all nutrient applications have been applied at the correct rate <b>and</b> time, and placed accurately</li> <li>Records should confirm that the Nutrient Management Plan <b>and Manure Management Plan</b> has been followed (see 2.3)</li> <li>Operator records referring to field applications</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">SM.SQ.07</a>
<b>2.11</b> <b>Operators/contractors are trained in accurate techniques of nutrient application.</b> <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operator/contractor training records including reference to the appropriate understanding and awareness of environmentally sensitive areas on the farm and risks associated with nutrient losses through runoff</li> <li>Operator/contractor training records include any internal training and experience</li> <li>Operator/contractor training records include nutrient mixing for fertigation systems</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<p><b>2.12</b> <b>Nitrogen use efficiency is measured.</b></p> <p><b>R</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where measurement is not practical. This should be justified by the business</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrogen use efficiency measurements are being made and recorded</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Review Question Synthetic Nitrogen Use Efficiency (SM.SD.02) is completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">SM.SD.02</a></p>
<p><b>2.13</b> <b>Control measures are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients when applying organic matter.</b></p> <p><b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if manure or organic matter not applied</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of storage, nutrient application dates and cultivation practices appropriate to cropping plan</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a></p>
<p><b>2.14</b> <b>(New v15.0) Soil health is measured.</b></p> <p><b>R</b> <b>NEW</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil health is measured using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual Soil Assessment</li> <li>earthworm counts</li> <li>a test justified by the business</li> </ul> </li> <li>Measurements are taken and recorded at least annually or at a frequency justified by the business</li> <li>Business identifies and implements an appropriate sampling strategy</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.01</a></p>



## Crop Health and Protection












**Protecting crops from weeds, pests and disease is an essential part of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in order to maintain yields and reduce avoidable losses.**

Safe and effective control will also help reduce the risk of water pollution and help preserve the abundance and diversity of native species.








Within an IFM system, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) takes a holistic approach to crop health and protection combining different strategies (cultural, biological, mechanical and/or chemical) to protect crops and ensure that chemical control is only used when necessary. It is essential to consider a range of approaches to ensure that the balance between optimising yield and quality, crop health, cost efficiency and environmental protection are maintained.

- LEAF's [Crop Health and Protection Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [example Pollution Emergency Procedure](#) can be used as procedure template for dealing with spillages
- UK Environmental Information Sheets (EIS) are available from [The Voluntary Initiative](#)
- Sprayer operator's continuous professional development can be provided by schemes such as the [National Register of Spray Operators website](#) in the UK
- More information on storing plant protection products is in the [GLOBALG.A.P Guidelines](#), or in the UK, HSE's [Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users \(AIS No. 16\)](#)

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<b>3.1</b> There is an implemented Crop Health and Protection Plan. <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop Health and Protection Plan includes reference to the following;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Farm Management (IFM)</li> <li>Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> <li>crop rotation, where applicable</li> <li>Selection of varieties relevant to production systems and long-term sustainability</li> <li>adoption of non plant protection product (PPP) interventions to control pests, where appropriate</li> <li>cultivations</li> <li>selection and justification of PPPs to reduce any effects on beneficial species</li> <li>appropriate dose rates and timings</li> <li>resistance management strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</li> <li>The requirements of Control Points 3.2, 3.5 and 3.7 should be included in the Plan</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.01</div>
<b>3.2</b> There are strategies to avoid weed, disease and pest resistance to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop Health and Protection Plan (see 3.1) states strategies to avoid weed, disease and pest resistance to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides (i.e. timing and dose rate, use of thresholds, utilising different modes of action, etc.)</li> <li>Crop protection records show that strategies have been used</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.01</div>
<b>3.3</b> There is a system in place for monitoring and recording pests (including vertebrate), disease, weed levels and beneficial predatory species. The system is used to decide when to apply plant protection products (PPPs). <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recorded system for regular monitoring by an agronomist or member of staff</li> <li>Records reference the use of pest, disease and weed thresholds, threshold warnings and local weather conditions</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.06</div>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>3.4</b> <b>There is a record to justify the use of <b>all</b> crop protection practices.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop protection operation records include justification of products and practices used</li> <li>• Decision support systems, advice tools and/or other precision farming techniques are used</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>
<b>3.5</b> <b>The business considers the environmental impact of all crop protection practices, including plant protection product (PPP), mechanical and cultural practices.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Health and Protection <b>Plan</b> (see 3.1) includes reference to the environmental impact of crop protection practices</li> <li>• Justification is included in records kept of all crop protection operations used</li> <li>• Justification of the proposed pest and disease programme can be recorded at the planning stage prior to the growing season</li> <li>• Deviations from the <b>Plan</b> are considered and recorded</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a>
<b>3.6</b> <b>Growth stages, infestation levels and plant protection product (PPP) type are considered before deciding on the appropriate rate of plant protection product used.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where PPPs are not applied</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring, recommendation and spray records show evidence of appropriate dose rates</li> <li>• The use of adjuvants (modifying agents) enabling the use of reduced rates and low volume spraying on crops is only done within the statutory regulations</li> <li>• PPP label instructions are adhered to</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>
<b>3.7</b> <b>Steps are taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Health and Protection <b>Plan</b> (see 3.1) includes evidence of steps taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species including pollinators</li> <li>• Evidence could include use of selective plant protection products (PPPs), evidence of predators, buffer zones, minimal cultivation and use of Environmental Information Sheets (EIS)</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a>
<b>3.8</b> <b>There is a documented procedure to ensure harvest intervals are <b>applied</b>.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where PPPs are not applied</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures identify first permissible harvest time and/or date after plant protection product (PPP) application</li> <li>• Procedures are adhered to</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.19</a>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>3.9</b> Precautions <b>are</b> taken to ensure plant protection product (PPP) use is limited to the area in which it is required.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> N/A where PPPs <b>are not applied</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precautions <b>are</b> taken by staff/contractors to limit PPP application to the area in which it is required may include methods such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ planning</li> <li>○ precision farming techniques</li> <li>○ accurate applications</li> <li>○ correct spraying conditions</li> <li>○ low drift techniques</li> <li>○ choice of sprayer</li> <li>○ choice of spray nozzle</li> <li>○ buffer strips or unsprayed strips of <b>at least</b> six metres adjacent to <b>sensitive areas (e.g. watercourses, habitats, and residential and business properties (see 3.20))</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	   <p><a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a></p>
<p><b>3.10</b> There is a documented and displayed procedure and notification process to alert relevant staff and/or authorities for dealing with spillages damaging to the environment, people and animals.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution Emergency Procedure includes information on what immediate action should be taken</li> <li>• Procedure is easily understood and follows a logical sequence based on the nature of the spillage</li> <li>• Procedure includes contact details for all staff and/or authorities</li> <li>• Staff are aware of the existence of the procedure and can easily understand it</li> <li>• Equipment referred to is appropriate, available and easy to find</li> <li>• Procedure is reviewed at least annually and contact details updated where appropriate</li> </ul>	   <p><a href="#">CP.CQ.08</a></p>
<p><b>3.11</b> Plant protection product (PPP) applications are recorded.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> N/A where PPPs <b>are not applied</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records meet appropriate baseline <b>certification system</b> requirements</li> <li>• Records include soil conditions (where practical and appropriate)</li> <li>• All operators (including contractors) within the spray team are recorded either on the spray record or as a separate record</li> </ul>	 <p><a href="#">OP.OQ.18</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a></p>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>3.16</b> <b>Plant protection products (PPPs) application equipment have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme or are appropriately maintained and calibrated to ensure safe and reliable operation.</b> <div> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <div>N/A where PPPs are not applied</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PPPs application equipment</b> have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme where a national scheme is available</li> <li>• Where there is no national scheme, there are records of routine maintenance and calibration</li> <li>• Monthly calibration for sprayers/granular applicators that are used weekly is appropriate</li> </ul>	<div> </div> <div>CP.CQ.10</div>
<b>3.17</b> <b>Plant protection products (PPPs) are stored securely to give protection to the environment and people.</b> <div> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <div>N/A where business does not store PPPs</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPPs are stored in accordance with the UK HSE's Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users (AIS No. 16) or GLOBALG.A.P. Guidelines</li> </ul>	<div> </div> <div>CP.CQ.07</div>
<b>3.18</b> <b>Only plant protection products (PPPs) with approval are used and stored.</b> <div> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <div>N/A where business does not store PPPs</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stores, stock rotation and records show that all PPPs that are used have been approved</li> <li>• In certain countries it may be necessary for the business to use extrapolated usage from another country. The PPP itself must already have another legal use in the country in which it is used. Full justification for any extrapolation is present, in line with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements</li> </ul>	<div> </div> <div>CP.CQ.07</div>
<b>3.19</b> <b>Plant protection products (PPPs) are used at the appropriate rate and timing for safe and effective use.</b> <div> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <div>N/A where PPPs are not applied</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP applications comply with the statutory conditions regarding the specific crop, maximum permitted total dose, maximum number of treatments and latest time of application as indicated on the PPP label or by authorised extension of use</li> </ul>	<div> </div> <div>CP.CQ.09</div>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>3.20</b> Adequate precautions are taken to protect neighbouring businesses and the public from plant protection product (PPP) application activities.</p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where PPPs are not applied</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to residential and business properties, bystander exposure to PPPs is reduced by considering the set-up and operation of PPP application equipment and the presence of an at least six-metre no-spray buffer strip (this can include the two-metres of margin that has been left as an undisturbed field margin (see 8.14))</li> <li>• Operator instructions indicate a lack of field pest control on headlands or evidence of buffer strips</li> <li>• Where hand-held equipment is used a buffer zone of less than six metres may be appropriate</li> <li>• A six-metre no spray zone may not be appropriate in small fields</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1289 324 1417 383">   </div> <p><u>CP.CQ.11</u></p>



# Pollution Control and By-Product Management

Nearly every process and practice results in the generation of ‘by-products’ or ‘wastes’ and therefore poses a potential risk of pollution and a threat to the environment. Wherever possible you should reduce, reuse and recycle any wastes.

Well managed pollution control and by-product management is an important part of Integrated Farm Management and will help make best use of resources, avoid pollution and save money as well as playing an important part in protecting water, energy, biodiversity and soil.

In many cases farm ‘wastes’ are a valuable resource and this section focuses on their optimum use in order to make cost savings and decrease pollution risk. ‘Wastes’ can result from any process or activity on-farm.

- LEAF’s [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include and how to integrate it with your Nutrient Management Plan
- LEAF’s [Pollution Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF’s [Pollution Emergency Procedure](#) provides an example on what to include
- [Food Waste Matters](#) guidance for fresh producer growers produced by WRAP in conjunction with LEAF

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>4.1</b> <b>Measures are taken to minimise waste.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management practices <b>are reviewed</b> at least annually</li> <li>• Opportunities are identified, and actions planned to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reduce production of waste</li> <li>○ re-use waste produced</li> <li>○ recycle waste</li> <li>○ safely and effectively disposal of waste where it cannot be utilised</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	  <a href="#">PC.PQ.03</a> <a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a> <a href="#">PC.PQ.05</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.07</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.09</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<p><b>4.2</b></p> <p><b>There is an implemented Manure Management Plan that is integrated with the Nutrient Management Plan (see 2.3).</b></p> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <p><i>N/A if organic material is not produced or used</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manure Management Plan includes slurry, manure, compost, anaerobic digestate and industrial waste and other organic materials</li> <li>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</li> <li>Field applications are in line with the Plan</li> <li>Field records include the application date and application rate</li> <li>Where relevant, Plan includes strategies to minimise emissions when applying slurry</li> <li>Land spreading of industrial waste (other than sewage sludge) is registered with the relevant environmental agency or authority if appropriate</li> <li>Requirements for Control Points 2.3 and 5.4 can be included in the Plan</li> </ul> <a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a> <a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a>
<p><b>4.3</b></p> <p><b>Fixed fuel tanks are bunded and potential spillages are prevented from entering watercourses.</b></p> <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel tanks that store more than 200 litres are bunded</li> <li>Underground tanks are pressure tested every five years</li> <li>Fuel oils stored in either a fuel storage tank or within a bunded storage area</li> <li>Bunded storage areas are impermeable and more than 10-metres away from areas of high risk contamination, such as open drains and ditches</li> <li>Consideration has been given to bunding of mobile fuel tanks</li> </ul> <a href="#">PC.PQ.02</a>
<p><b>4.4</b></p> <p><b>Equipment and machinery is regularly maintained and calibrated to ensure accurate and efficient application and operation.</b></p> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <p><i>N/A where business does not use sprayers, fertiliser and muck/manure spreaders, tractors and equipment used for treating and handling livestock</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show regular maintenance and procedures for plant protection products (PPPs) and fertiliser application equipment, muck/manure spreaders and tractors (including tyres), and equipment used for treating and handling livestock</li> </ul> <a href="#">OP.OQ.16</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.09</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>4.5</b> There is a Pollution Risk Assessment that identifies, documents and records all potential pollutants on a map. <span>E</span>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution Risk Assessment has been completed in the past 12 months</li> <li>Assessment includes potential pollutants at each stage of their use from unloading to disposal</li> <li>Assessment identifies pollution risks and indicates the probability and severity of each risk</li> <li>Assessment identifies and records steps to reduce or avoid the impact of all pollutant risks to the environment</li> <li>Risks are communicated to relevant staff and contractors</li> <li>Steps and their impact are reviewed at least annually</li> <li>Assessment considers air, noise, light, soil, surface and ground water pollution</li> </ul>	  PC.PQ.01
<b>4.6</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]	
<b>4.7</b> Quality and condition of drainage ditches and watercourses are visually monitored. <span>R</span> <span>N/A</span> N/A if no ditches or watercourses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of regular monitoring (at least quarterly and especially after recent field operations)</li> <li>Watercourses have not been polluted by run-off (e.g. are not discoloured or have excessive growth of algae)</li> <li>Action plan includes emergency strategies</li> </ul>	  WM.WQ.05
<b>4.8</b> There are maps of all drainage schemes for fields and general farm building areas. <span>R</span>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractors' certified maps of completed schemes or good farm plans with outfalls</li> <li>Maps of general farm building are available in the event of a pollution incident to provide guidance in controlling water run-off</li> </ul>	  WM.WQ.05 WM.WQ.06
<b>4.9</b> New land drainage is recorded and outlets are identified. <span>E</span> <span>N/A</span> N/A if no new land drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage plans are up to date</li> </ul>	  WM.WQ.05



# Animal Husbandry




Optimising animal **health and** welfare, feeding and **resource use** are essential to implementing Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in any livestock business.

Good animal welfare is paramount not only for maintaining healthy animals but is also essential for maintaining productivity and reducing environmental impact.








With appropriate planning and management, manures and slurries represent a valuable resource and can form a key fertiliser input, significantly reducing production costs. **Feeding decisions should be linked to many aspects of the business, ensuring livestock are fed to maintain their health and welfare, generate a profit and, where possible, reduce environmental impacts.** Appropriate management **of outdoor-reared livestock** can also contribute to improved grass production and reduced sward restoration costs. Suitable management can help reduce topsoil and nutrient losses, improve the quality of watercourses and enhance biodiversity.






Poor animal husbandry is not only detrimental to animal welfare, but can also be at the root of a variety of production, environmental and food safety issues.










- [LEAF's Simply Sustainable Biosecurity](#)
- LEAF's [Livestock Health Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- [LEAF's Animal Feed Audit and Animal Feed Action Plan](#)



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>5.1</b> <b>Measures are taken to avoid damage to grassland by livestock and to optimise biodiversity</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if no outdoor livestock production</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2) includes advice on livestock management and the environment</li> <li>• Measures taken to optimise biodiversity and reduce soil erosion and run-off may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ adjusting stocking rates</li> <li>○ adjusting animal movements and/or using rotation</li> <li>○ consideration of permanent tracks</li> <li>○ positioning of gateways and fencing</li> <li>○ positioning of supplementary feeders and drinkers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.12</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a>








STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>5.2</b> <b>Nesting birds and wildlife are protected when cutting forage.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if forage is not cut</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of protection by staff and contractors through the direction and timing of cutting</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>
<b>5.3</b> <b>Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent or solid organic matter is not used or stored</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An active programme of inspection, maintenance and repair is in place for all organic material stores</li> <li>Stores have sufficient capacity for organic material being stored and expected rainfall as appropriate</li> <li>All stores are at least 10 metres away from water bodies and further away where necessary e.g. near a water supply intake</li> <li>Field stores are at least 50 metres away from water bodies where potable water is abstracted</li> <li>Above ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction with maintenance</li> <li>Below ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction without maintenance</li> <li>Run-off, drainage and effluent from stores is appropriately managed</li> <li>Construction materials are appropriate considering permeability and corrosion</li> <li>Construction of a new store, or alteration to an existing store, has been notified to relevant authorities where required and appropriate (e.g. environmental and planning)</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a>
<b>5.4</b> <b>There is adequate safe holding capacity for animal manure and slurry for the requirements of the business.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where animal manure and slurry is not stored</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal manure or slurry stores have no potential overspill and/or pollution risk</li> <li>Where there is no minimum capacity stated in law, animal manure or slurry stores have capacity for at least 4 months storage, or as justified in the Manure Management Plan (see 4.2)</li> <li>Records show regular inspection and maintenance</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION
<p><b>5.5</b> <b>Dirty water and silage effluent are collected and safely recycled.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if no dirty water or silage effluent</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of dirty water is minimised and sufficient storage is provided to allow for its effective use</li> <li>• Silage effluent is applied in accordance with crop requirements and in suitable conditions</li> <li>• Run-off from animal manure on hard surface areas or yards is contained and treated as dirty water</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a> <a href="#">PC.PQ.05</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a></p>
<p><b>5.6</b> <b>Environmentally-sensitive areas, identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan, are protected and managed appropriately.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmentally valuable/sensitive areas identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (e.g. hedges, ponds, ditches, streams, rivers, margins) are appropriately managed for the identified and targeted species to protect wildlife and water quality (see <a href="#">5.1</a> and <a href="#">8.2</a>)</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">LN.LQ.01</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a></p>
<p><b>5.7</b> <b>There is an implemented Livestock Health Plan.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock Health Plan is appropriate for all livestock within the business</li> <li>• <b>Plan includes reference to the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>targets to prevent resistance build-up to veterinary medicines</b></li> <li>○ <b>adoption of non-chemical methods to optimise fertility, production, health and welfare, where relevant</b></li> <li>○ <b>biosecurity</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plan has been produced in consultation with and <b>agreed with vet(s)</b></li> <li>• <b>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> <li>• <b>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Where relevant, the Plan includes reference to Control Points 2.1, 3.1, 5.9, 5.10, 5.13, 7.1 and 8.1</b></li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a></p>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>5.8</b> <b>There is an annual visit from your vet(s) to discuss animal health strategy and welfare issues.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report(s) signed by vet(s) from annual visit(s), at minimum, that includes strategy and welfare issues</li> <li>Vet(s) report(s) incorporates all animals within the business, including those not covered by the business' baseline certification system(s)</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.03</a>
<b>5.9</b> <b>(Upgraded v15.0) Animal health and welfare indicators are monitored and used to assess performance on a production cycle basis.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records and analysis of appropriate indicators for all livestock within the business (these could include: feed intake, water intake, body condition scoring, lameness, diarrhoea, mastitis, flystrike, hock burn, %mortality)</li> <li>Records reference that remedial action has been taken where necessary</li> <li>Records reference strategies taken to optimise animal health and welfare (this can be part of your Livestock Health Plan (see 5.7))</li> <li>Sufficient time is allowed for thorough observations to take place</li> <li>Records reference observations made at an appropriate frequency</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.03</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.11</a>
<b>5.10</b> <b>(New v15.0) Staff/contractors are trained in monitoring of animal health and welfare indicators.</b> <div>R</div> <div>NEW</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training records for relevant staff (a competent, and where possible qualified, person may train staff, such as a vet or livestock manager)</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.09</a>
<b>5.11</b> <b>(New v15.0) Animal performance indicators are monitored on a production cycle basis.</b> <div>R</div> <div>NEW</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records and analysis of appropriate indicators for all livestock within the business (these could include: daily live weight gain, feed conversion ratio, body condition scoring, fertility)</li> <li>Records reference how this is integrated with health and welfare strategies (this can be part of your Livestock Health Plan (see 5.7))</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">AH.AQ.11</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>5.12</b> <b>(New v15.0) There is an Animal Feed Audit.</b> <div> <div>R</div> <div>NEW</div> <div>N/A</div> </div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of animal feed includes reference to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sources (e.g. supplier(s) where applicable, country of origin etc)</li> <li>composition</li> <li>nutritional requirements of all livestock within the business</li> <li>feed assurance schemes, where applicable</li> </ul> </li> <li>Audit is reviewed annually</li> <li>Audit includes home-grown and brought-in feed</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">AH.AQ.07</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.12</a>
<b>5.13</b> <b>(New v15.0) There is an implemented Action Plan based on the Animal Feed Audit.</b> <div> <div>R</div> <div>NEW</div> <div>N/A</div> </div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Plan considers ways for business to minimise feed waste</li> <li>In grazing systems, Action Plan identifies ways of reducing dependency on bought-in feed</li> <li>Action Plan includes any opportunities to consider sustainability of feed sources including reference to and targets around:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>long-term continuity of supply</li> <li>sourcing from assured suppliers, where applicable</li> <li>reducing GHG emissions</li> <li>environmental impact of protein sources</li> </ul> </li> <li>Action Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>The implementation of the Action Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</li> <li>Action Plan includes home-grown and brought-in feed</li> <li>Action Plan can be incorporated into the Animal Feed Audit (see 5.12)</li> <li>Action Plan can form part of your Livestock Health Plan (see 5.7)</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">AH.AQ.07</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.12</a>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>6.2</b> <b>Energy consumption is monitored.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumption is recorded at <b>least quarterly</b></li> <li><b>The most significant use(s) of energy identified in the Energy Audit (see 6.1) are measured</b></li> <li>Energy use is measured per unit of output or other relevant metric (kWh per tonne/head/hectare)</li> <li>Measurement is in energy units</li> <li><b>Measurements can be included in the Energy Audit (see 6.1)</b></li> </ul>	  <u>EE.EQ.01</u>
<b>6.3</b> <b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are recorded.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on energy consumption records</li> <li><b>Where applicable, record of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions include reference to GHG emissions from livestock and their feed</b></li> <li><b>Carbon footprinting and/or carbon budgeting may help identify opportunities</b></li> <li><b>If carbon footprinting tools are being used, LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Carbon Footprints (PC.PD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</b></li> </ul>	  <u>EE.EQ.01</u>
<b>6.4</b> <b>(Upgraded v15.0) There is an implemented Energy Action Plan.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Energy Action Plan is based on the annual Energy Audit (see 6.1), monitoring of energy consumption (see 6.2) and CO<sub>2</sub> emission records (see 6.3)</b></li> <li><b>Energy Action Plan includes reference to and targets around:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>enhancing energy use efficiency</b></li> <li><b>minimising energy consumption</b></li> <li><b>reducing dependency on non-renewable energy sources</b></li> <li><b>reducing GHG emissions</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Action Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> <li><b>The implementation of the Action Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</b></li> </ul>	    <u>PC.PQ.07</u> <u>PC.PD.01</u> <u>EE.EQ.01</u>





# Water Management






**Efficient water management is a core component of Integrated Farm Management. Managing water wisely as well as assessing and enhancing the efficiency of on farm use saves money and helps provide for future needs.**

Good water management practices help protect water sources and improve water quality. In particular, good water management will contribute towards reducing run-off and pollution, improved field access and soil workability and restoration of wetland areas.

Sustainable management of water in agriculture is critical to increase agricultural production and maintain the environmental benefits and social requirements of water systems.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Water](#) provides Six Simple Steps for managing water quality and use on your land.
- LEAF's [Water Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>7.1</b></p> <p><b>There is an implemented Water Management Plan.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan includes, <b>where appropriate</b>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>where water is used and justification for use</li> <li>plans to reduce water use</li> <li>justification of water sources used</li> <li>environmental impact of water used</li> <li>leakage</li> <li>collection and re-use of some waters such as clean roof water or cooling water</li> <li>irrigation scheduling</li> <li>water discharges to the environment</li> <li><b>targets to improve water quality and use efficiency</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</b></li> <li><b>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</b></li> <li>The requirements <b>of</b> Control Points 7.4 and 7.5 can be included in the Plan</li> </ul>	<div>   </div> <div>WM.WQ.01</div>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>7.2</b>	[Deleted since v15.0]	
<b>7.3</b> <b>Applied water use efficiency is measured.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water use efficiency of all irrigated water is measured in litres (or m<sup>3</sup>) of water per tonne of output</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Applied Water Use Efficiency (WM.WD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> <li>Irrigated water is water that is either taken from the mains or from the environment and directly irrigated or stored for use</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">WM.WQ.04</a> <a href="#">WM.WD.01</a>
<b>7.4</b> <b>Applied water use efficiency measurements are analysed, any changes justified, and measurements are used to plan improvements.</b> <b>R</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan includes a documented annual review of water efficiency measurements and actions for improvement through enhanced agronomic or technological practices (see 7.1)</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">WM.WQ.02</a> <a href="#">WM.WQ.04</a>
<b>7.5</b> <b>The business is increasing the percentage of water use from stored water from periods of natural rainfall abundance over direct abstraction. The business is also developing rainwater harvesting and water reuse opportunities.</b> <b>R</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for those not using irrigation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan indicate plans to increase the percentage of water used from stored sources over direct abstraction (see 7.1)</li> <li>Applied water use efficiency data and Water Management Plan indicate plans to develop rainwater harvesting and water reuse opportunities (see 7.1)</li> <li>Business can justify progress on water efficiency and sources of water used</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a> <a href="#">WM.WQ.03</a> <a href="#">WM.WD.01</a>







## Landscape and Nature Conservation

**Care for the environment is at the core of Integrated Farm Management. For many farmers the demonstration of this care is a living farm landscape which will enhance the public's experience of the countryside.**





Responsible management of the landscape leads to enhanced biodiversity. It can also help protect soil and water and improve land value, farm image and market opportunities. In addition, environmental land management will support a range of ecosystem services that benefit both the farm and the surrounding area.












It is important to remember that landscape and wildlife are like any other aspects of the farm; what is achieved depends on the starting conditions, the capability of the land and the effort invested. Consideration should be given to all areas and actions which could improve habitats. This will include existing habitats, field boundaries and margins, in-field features, watercourses and wetlands, flower-rich and seed-rich habitats.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Biodiversity](#) provides Six Simple Steps to help improve biodiversity on your land
- LEAF's [Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- Further information on biodiversity in your area visit can be found on the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#) (UK only) websites
- LEAF's [Great habitats, more flowers, better protection – Pollinator Guidance](#) provides more information on pollinating insects








STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>8.1</b>  <b>There is a documented Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (including map).</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit includes map(s) with reference to the following key environmental features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ areas and sites on farm with any statutory landscape designation</li> <li>○ lakes, ponds and watercourses</li> <li>○ semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, wetlands, lowland heath, species-rich grassland, carbon sinks etc.)</li> <li>○ linear features (e.g. hedges, fence lines, verges, field margins, walls, ditches)</li> <li>○ public rights of way</li> <li>○ archaeological or historical sites</li> <li>○ land on which other important species are found</li> <li>○ areas that are grazed</li> <li>○ lists of any important species recorded in the area</li> <li>○ traditional buildings</li> <li>○ fire breaks that help protect crops and habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audit includes notes on how the farming operations could damage, or have detrimental effects, on these features</li> <li>• Audit completed or reviewed by a specialist conservation advisor or consultant</li> <li>• Audit regularly reviewed (at least every five years) by the specialist advisor and annually by farmer</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1273 327 1398 383">   </div> <p><a href="#">LN.LQ.01</a></p>











STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>8.4</b> <b>Information is sought about landlord's conservation management practices where land is rented for less than three years.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where there is no rented land</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation from the landlord regarding engagement with LEAF (e.g. LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Record of Completion or LEAF Marque certificate)</li> <li>OR Environmental assessments of the land that is rented (e.g. conservation plan, Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit)</li> <li>OR Correspondence with landlord showing requests for information</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a>
<b>8.5</b> <b>Contractors, or tenants who rent land from the certified business, manage the land in a way that protects and enhances the environment.</b> <b>R</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where no contractors used or land rented out</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Contractors and/or</b> tenants are LEAF Marque certified</li> <li>OR Correspondence that indicates the business has encouraged the <b>contractors and/or</b> tenants to join LEAF</li> <li><b>OR Correspondence that indicates the business has investigated the environmental credentials of prospective contractors and/or tenants to ensure they will protect and enhance the environmental features of the land</b></li> <li>NOTE: Tenants who farm land approved under LEAF Marque where the certificate is held by the landlord cannot sell their produce as LEAF Marque, without being approved themselves</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.06</a> <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a>
<b>8.6</b> <b>Environmental impact is minimised if the business has brought or is planning to bring "uncultivated land or semi-natural areas" into agricultural use in the last 12 months or near future.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business has not brought or is not planning to bring "uncultivated land or semi-natural areas" into agricultural use in the last 12 months or near future</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2) includes records that show that the business has taken measures to minimise negative consequences to the environment if uncultivated land or semi-natural areas have been brought into agricultural use in the last 12 months or the business is planning to do so</li> <li>Areas or sites with statutory landscape designations have not been brought into agricultural use in the last 12 months nor does the business have any plans to do so</li> <li>Bringing land into agricultural use includes clearance of vegetation, cultivation, fertilisation, liming, drainage, introducing high stocking rates, earth moving or building</li> <li>Where appropriate, relevant authorities have been notified and approval received prior to land use change</li> <li>In the UK, <b>this could be evidenced by an Environmental Impact Assessment</b></li> </ul>	   <a href="#">OP.OQ.03</a>







STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>8.7</b> <b>Traditional field boundaries, environmental/landscape features and other natural habitats are retained.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field boundaries, environmental/landscape features <b>and other natural habitats</b> have not been removed and maps and plans show no intention to remove them</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>
<b>8.8</b> <b>Timing and frequency of field/boundary management is restricted.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for fields where there is not a distinguishable boundary feature</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recent damage to field boundaries</li> <li>Field boundary management plans set out in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2) observe nesting periods and consider other flora and fauna including pollinating insects</li> <li>Hedge cutting and boundary management carried out more often than every two years is justified (e.g. due to highway safety)</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>
<b>8.9</b> <b>Timing and frequency of watercourse management is restricted.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no watercourses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sympathetic management includes not clearing ditches during bird nesting period, only re-profiling or clearing vegetation from one side of a ditch in any one year</li> <li><b>Record justification of when</b> drainage clearance <b>is by necessity more frequent</b></li> </ul>	   <a href="#">WM.WQ.05</a>
<b>8.10</b> <b>There is a license for any removal of trees (where required and appropriate).</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where no trees have been removed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval documents (where required and appropriate) are present where recent tree felling is apparent</li> <li>Recent tree felling is referred to in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan and is in accordance with local regulations</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>
<b>8.11</b> <b>In-field trees and trees in boundaries and hedgerows are retained.</b> <b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where there are no trees in-field, within hedges or within boundaries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedgerows and trees are present as recorded in the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (see 8.1)</li> <li><b>Records to show if</b> trees <b>causing a hazard</b> have been removed</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>8.15</b> <b>Native habitat banks are present in fields larger than 20 hectares.</b> <div> <div>R</div> <div>N/A</div> </div> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no fields larger than 20 hectares</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fields larger than 20 hectares are split with habitat banks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fields between 20 and 30 hectares have at least one habitat bank</li> <li>fields between 30 and 40 hectares have at least two habitat banks</li> <li>fields between 40 and 50 hectares have at least three habitat banks</li> <li>fields over 50 hectares have at least four habitat banks</li> </ul> </li> <li>If fields have six metre margins this may negate the need for habitat banks</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a>
<b>8.16</b> <b>Native and/or appropriate species are used in field margins and other habitats.</b> <div>E</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeding of field margins uses local provenance of seed and native species where possible</li> <li>Seeding records including seed label</li> <li>Hedgerow and trees comprised of native and/or appropriate species</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>
<b>8.17</b>	[Deleted since v14.1]	
<b>8.18</b> <b>Care is taken to avoid damage or destruction of national/local important ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest.</b> <div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where there are no ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no damage to national/local important ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest caused by sub-soiling, unauthorised excavation, land reclamation, levelling, tipping/in-filling, woodland clearance, tree-planting, excessive damage by livestock etc.</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>
<b>8.19</b> <b>Flora and fauna are able to thrive through rotation and leaving land uncropped.</b> <div>R</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm records and farmland give evidence of land being left uncropped</li> <li>Uncropped land will not be appropriate on all soil types</li> <li>Where applicable, grazing is managed to allow for flora and fauna</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>8.20</b> <b>Field operations are adjusted to avoid areas where birds are nesting.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of avoidance of nests in crops (e.g. appropriately marking nests)</li> <li>Reduced mechanical weed control during nesting period</li> <li>Headlands in perennial crops such as orchards are not cut until after nesting</li> <li>Windbreaks are not cut until after nesting</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>
<b>8.21</b> <b>Staff are involved in planning and implementing improvement to habitats and landscape features.</b> <b>R</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are aware of, understand and, where appropriate, follow the recommendations of the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (see 8.1) and Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> </ul>	 <a href="#">LN.LQ.04</a>
<b>8.22</b> <b>Flora/fauna, wildlife and/or wider environment on the farm is monitored.</b> <b>R</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring records (e.g. written records, photos, apps, satellite images)</li> </ul>	 <a href="#">LN.LQ.04</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.09</a>
<b>8.23</b> <b>There is a minimum of 5% farm area available as appropriate habitats, not used for cropping and food production.</b> <b>R</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cropping plans and total farm area show 5% area is available as appropriate habitat</li> <li>Appropriate habitat area can include non-cropped area managed for wildlife, ditches, hedges, margins, woodland, desert, forest, wild bird mixes and others</li> <li>Appropriate habitat area should be based on the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> </ul>	 <a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a>
<b>8.24</b> <b>Nesting habitat and food for farmland birds are provided alongside other activities to enhance the habitat for native fauna.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A measure is being carried out to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nesting habitat for farmland birds</li> <li>food for farmland birds, seasonal if appropriate (e.g. insects for summer food, seed for winter food)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Measures are recorded in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> <li>Other fauna may be more relevant than farmland birds in some cases</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>8.25</b> <b>Bees and pollinators are included as key species in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan includes reference to seasonal food (nectar and pollen), shelter and foraging sites for bees and pollinators (see 8.2)</li> <li>Bee and pollinator habitats are present</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>
<b>8.26</b> <b>(Upgraded v15.0) The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats has been completed.</b> <b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats (LN.MD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> <li>Total Farm Area should be the total area of the business</li> <li>Total Farmed Area should be actual cropped area</li> <li>Habitat Area should be uncropped area that is being actively managed for the benefit of biodiversity</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LN.MD.01</a>
<b>8.27</b> <b>(New v15.0) At least one representative species or habitat, that can be justified in environmental terms, is monitored on the farm.</b> <b>R</b> <b>NEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species/habitat or collections of species/habitat chosen are justified by a person with relevant local environmental knowledge</li> <li>Monitoring records show the presence of the chosen species/habitat or collection of species/habitat (these could include: visual inspection, electronic records, e.g. apps, photos, satellite images, and/or written records)</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">LN.MD.01</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.09</a>



# Community Engagement









**There are so many good reasons for building strong community connections. Through these networks farmers can explain how they farm and use Integrated Farm Management (IFM).**

A good relationship with the local community forms a shop front for the business. All other aspects of IFM should feed in to what is shown and shared. In this way, trust is built in businesses and farming as a whole.

Enjoying explaining farming to the public, suppliers and influencers will help others better understand agriculture and the rural environment. Being connected to your local community and a wide range of people will help address their concerns about the countryside and enable them to become more connected with their food.

- [LEAF's guidance on Ways to Engage with the Local Community](#)
- More information about LEAF's [Open Farm Sunday](#) can be found on the website
- LEAF's [Farm Walks and Talks](#) provides further information on hosting farm visits
- [LEAF Farm Notice Boards](#) are a great way to communicate positive messages about food, farming and the countryside
- LEAF's [Speak Out](#) programme provides advice on improving communication skills


STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
9.1	[Deleted since v15.0]	
9.2	[Deleted since v15.0]	
9.3	[Deleted since v15.0]	

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<b>9.4</b> <b>(New v15.0) At least one activity is carried out annually with the intention of engaging local or wider community(ies).</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes a description of the activity; objective(s) of the activity; date(s) of delivery; personnel responsible for delivery; evaluates whether the objective(s) was met. Less detail may be appropriate where a significant number of activities are carried out</li> <li>Where activities relate to food, farming and nature, they include reference to Integrated Farm Management (IFM) and sustainable farming as appropriate</li> <li>In the first year, the activity can be related to improving skills to support delivery in future years</li> <li>For whichever group(s) of people which are selected, their needs and preferences are considered where appropriate</li> <li>Activities may be repeated or extended over more than one year</li> <li>For LEAF Producer Groups, activity(ies) may be undertaken by the Producer Group on behalf of the farms</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">CE.MQ.01</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.02</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.03</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.04</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.05</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.06</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.07</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.08</a> <a href="#">CE.MQ.09</a>
<b>9.5</b> <b>(New v15.0) The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review data questions on Community Engagement have been completed.</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review questions Open Farm Sunday (CE.MD.01), Visits and Talks (CE.MD.02), Media Engagement (CE.MD.03) and Wider Engagement (CE.MD.04) have been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">CE.MD.01</a> <a href="#">CE.MD.02</a> <a href="#">CE.MD.03</a> <a href="#">CE.MD.04</a>



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